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ABSTRACT

Intended for students taking English 30 Grade Diploma Examinations in Alberta, Canada, this writing test booklet contains the composition component of the June 1989 tests. During 2.5 hours, students are required to complete a minor writing assignment in which they give a personal response to William Butler Yeats' "The Fascination of What's Difficult" and a major writing assignment in which they describe how the authors they studied in senior high school English classes illustrate ideas through such elements as character development, setting, contrast, conflict, imagery, irony, symbolism, etc. The booklet contains space for planning and drafting the compositions, as well as for writing the revised work. (KEH)

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**GRADE 12 DIPLOMA EXAMINATION**
**ENGLISH 30**

**Part A: Written Response**

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

This examination consists of TWO assignments. Read the **WHOLE** examination before you begin to write. Follow instructions carefully. Complete **BOTH** assignments.

TOTAL TIME: 2½ hours
Budget your time carefully.

| | | Page Number |
|---|---|---|
| MINOR ASSIGNMENT: | Personal Response to Literature<br>Suggested time: 30 to 40 minutes<br>Value: 30% of this examination | 3 |
| MAJOR ASSIGNMENT: | Literature Composition<br>Suggested time: 100 to 110 minutes<br>Value: 70% of this examination | 10 |

You may use an English language DICTIONARY and a THESAURUS.

Space is provided for PLANNING AND DRAFTING and for REVISED WORK.

Please write your revised work in blue or black ink.

**DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME ANYWHERE IN THE TEST BOOKLET**

**JUNE 1989**

**Instructions**

1. **Read "The Fascination of What's Difficult" carefully and thoughtfully before you start the writing assignments.**

2. **Read BOTH the Minor and Major assignments before you start writing.**

## THE FASCINATION OF WHAT'S DIFFICULT

The fascination of what's difficult
Has dried the sap out of my veins, and rent
Spontaneous joy and natural content
Out of my heart. There's something ails our colt
That must, as if it had not holy blood,
Nor on an Olympus leaped from cloud to cloud,
Shiver under the lash, strain, sweat and jolt
As though it dragged road metal.[1] My curse on plays
That have to be set up in fifty ways,
On the day's war with every knave and dolt,
Theatre business, management of men.
I swear before the dawn comes round again
I'll find the stable and pull out the bolt.

*William Butler Yeats*

*W.B. Yeats* (1865-1939) was an Irish poet and playwright, passionately involved in theatre affairs.

[1]road metal — crushed stone or similar material used in the construction of roadbeds

## MINOR ASSIGNMENT

**Personal Response to Literature (Suggested time: 30 to 40 minutes)**

Limitations may be defined as the external or internal factors that thwart the fulfilment of our desires.

In the poem "The Fascination of What's Difficult," W.B. Yeats uses metaphor and imagery to describe how the demands of daily routine affect the human spirit.

Choose a quotation from "The Fascination of What's Difficult" that you can associate with limitations. Explain why the quotation you have chosen is meaningful to you.

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

There is additional space for Planning and Drafting on pages 4, 6, and 8.

**Minor Assignment**

**Personal Response to Literature**

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

There is additional space for Planning and Drafting on pages 6 and 8.

**Minor Assignment**

**Personal Response to Literature**

REVISED WORK

There is additional space for Revised Work on pages 7 and 9.

**Minor Assignment**

**Personal Response to Literature**

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

There is additional space for Planning and Drafting on page 8.

**Minor Assignment**

**Personal Response to Literature**

REVISED WORK

There is additional space for Revised Work on page 9.

**Minor Assignment**

**Personal Response to Literature**

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

**Minor Assignment**

**Personal Response to Literature**

REVISED WORK

## MAJOR ASSIGNMENT

### Literature Composition (Suggested time: 100 to 110 minutes)

Literature often examines the effect of external or internal factors that impose limitations on people's lives. For example, in the poem "The Fascination of What's Difficult," W.B. Yeats uses metaphor and imagery to suggest that limitations are the cause of personal frustration and rebellion.

## THE ASSIGNMENT

**SELECT OTHER LITERATURE THAT EXAMINES THE EFFECT OF EXTERNAL OR INTERNAL LIMITATIONS ON PEOPLE'S LIVES. WHAT IDEA DOES THE AUTHOR DEVELOP REGARDING LIMITATIONS? PROVIDE SPECIFIC DETAILS FROM THE LITERATURE YOU HAVE CHOSEN THAT WILL SUPPORT AND DEVELOP YOUR CONTROLLING IDEA.**

### Guidelines for Writing

- **SELECT** relevant literature that you have studied in your high school English classes. You may choose from short stories, novels, plays, poems, other literature, or films that have been studied in your high school English classes. You may choose to discuss MORE THAN ONE selection.
- **FOCUS** your composition on the topic. Provide ONLY those details that support your controlling idea or thesis statement.
- You may wish to provide **SUPPORT** by discussing the significance of the author's use of such elements as character development, setting, contrast, conflict, imagery, irony, symbolism, etc.
- **ORGANIZE** your composition appropriately.

**Major Assignment**

PLANNING

Identify the literature you plan to use. State your controlling idea or thesis statement.

Author and Title
(or Source) _____

_____

_____

_____

Controlling Idea
or Thesis
Statement _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

There is additional space for Planning and Drafting on even-numbered pages.

**Major Assignment**

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

**Major Assignment**

REVISED WORK

There is additional space for Revised Work on odd-numbered pages.

**Major Assignment**

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

**Major Assignment**

REVISED WORK

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PLANNING AND DRAFTING

**Major Assignment**

REVISED WORK

## CREDITS

W.B. Yeats. "The Fascination of What's Difficult" from *The Collected Poems of W.B. Yeats*. Reprinted by permission of A.P. Watt Ltd. on behalf of Michael B. Yeats and Macmillan London Ltd.

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ENGLISH 30: PART A

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